GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2681
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
APPROVAL OF FOUR VARIETIES OF BT COTTON
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) had approved four varieties of Bt. Cotton for commercial cultivation by farmers in the country, after due trials;

(b) if so, whether any sample survey had been conducted at the farm level, in different States, to assess the performance of these varieties in terms of crop yield and pest resistance etc.; and

(c) the outcome of these surveys, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The Government, through the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests had accorded approval for four Bt. Cotton hybrids for commercial cultivation by farmers in the Central and Southern part of the country after conducting due trials.

(b) & (c): On the directions of the Government of India, the monitoring committees have been set up in all the cotton growing States to assess the performance of Bt. Cotton, -from the reports received from the State Governments, it was observed that the performance of Bt.. Cotton was satisfactory and farmers have derived economic benefits due to reduction in insecticides applications.

The area of Bt. Cotton has increased from 0.70 lakh acres in Kharif, 2002 to 2.30 lakh acres in Kharif, 2003 and further increased to 12.00 lakh acres in Kharif, 2004.